

Issue 41 September 2017

Membership Meetings

The remaining meeting dates are Fridays and take place at Ontario Pork.

- October 13, 2017
- December 15, 2017

Upcoming Meeting Presentations:

October:

- ◆ Public Health Response to a Zoonotic Disease Outbreak – Catherine Filejski
- ◆ Wildlife Surveillance for Echinococcus multilocularis – Andrew Peregrine

December:

- ◆ Dairy Farmers of Ontario ProAction Program – Maria Leal
- ◆ Economics of Reducing Antibiotic Use on Hog Farms – Travis Jansen

2018:

- ◆ Equine Biosecurity - Scott Weese

CVMA Brings Awareness to Animal Welfare During Animal Health Week

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) celebrates Animal Health Week, from October 1 to 7, by drawing attention to the important role animal owners play in animal welfare through sharing the Five Animal Freedoms.

This year's Animal Health Week theme, Animal Welfare: Safeguarding the Five Animal Freedoms, highlights the five basic freedoms animals require to survive and thrive: adequate shelter, proper nutrition, appropriate veterinary care, proper socialization, and the ability to exhibit normal behaviours.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

This highly fatal disease has been confirmed by the CFIA in two white-tailed deer found near London in early September. These are the first known cases of the disease in Ontario. Blood-feeding biting midges spread the virus between deer. Affected deer may develop fever, depression, and have trouble breathing before dying. Sick deer seek water out of thirst and to cool off from their fever, and therefore, dying or deceased deer are often found in water bodies.

Because EHD virus is new to the area, deer populations in Ontario lack pre-existing herd immunity, which may lead to greater rates of transmission and higher numbers of affected deer. Currently, there is no vaccine licensed for use in North America or other feasible preventative measures. After the first frost, biting midge numbers are drastically reduced, so transmission is expected to stop. Therefore, the duration and severity of the outbreak will depend in part on weather patterns.

Plant and Animal Health Strategy

The strategy has been endorsed by federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers. It proposes options to collectively address evolving risks to plant and animal health focusing efforts on prevention and increased partner collaboration and coordination. It is available at [Plant and Animal Health Strategy](#)

Antimicrobial Use

OMAFRA is looking at how the Livestock Medicines Act will work within the federal changes. In the fall, OMAFRA will be reaching out to commodity groups to discuss. The regulatory changes will take effect in March 2018 with a nine to 10-month implementation phase-in period. Information cards have been sent to livestock medicine outlets. These can be handed out to people who are purchasing antimicrobials through them letting them know what will not be sold over the counter in future.

Modernizing the Veterinarians Act

A component of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario strategic plan was to look at modernizing the regulations governing veterinary medicine. A discussion document was released in May 2017 with 19 proposed concepts.

The consultation is open until October 20th. Several resources and background pieces are available on the CVO website <https://cvo.org/For-the-Public/Public-Consultations/Modernizing-the-Veterinarians-Act.aspx>. In previous rounds of consultation, over 80% were in favour of the proposed changes. A proposal will be presented to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in January 2018.

Our Mission

Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.